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WASTE-BASKET OF WORDS.

THE following words I have noticed in connection with pension claims from the South. I cannot state their precise locality, but I think they may nearly all be set down to Kentucky and Tennessee:—

GRIFF. — A certain man is described as having a “griff complexion.” He belonged to a colored regiment, but the particular shade intended I am unable to say.

HIRELAND. — A renter or cropper.

JIN. — “I hired him to jin around my farm,” apparently to “chore” or do odd jobs. Compare “gin,” a trap, and the Western “traps” = miscellaneous belongings.

LONG SWEETNIN’. — Molasses, sugar being short sweetnin.’ (Ala.)

MOLLY-COTTON. — A rabbit. “Cotton-tail” is common at the West.

SKAMPED. — Grazed. “He was skamped by a ball.”

SKIRTS. — One who claims to be a doctor testifies that a certain man “had a misery about his skirts,” which appears to mean his sides. Misery is nearly universal for pain. — *H. E. Warner, Washington, D. C.*

FOLK-LORE SCRAP-BOOK.

SUPERSTITIONS OF THE PASSAMAQUODDIES. — A correspondent of the “Lewiston (Maine) Journal,” some time ago, in conversation with intelligent members of the Passamaquoddy tribe, obtained many of their beliefs and superstitions, his principal authority being their priest, Father O’Dowd, whom he quotes to the following effect: —

“The great bugbear of the Passamaquoddies is Kee-zeg-be-set, who is supposed to be a fiend or fire hobgoblin prowling around at all times and ready for any sort of mischief. They believe they see him in the night, sometimes in the form of a rabbit and again in the shape of a fish. An Indian whose conscience may smite him for wrong-doing sees a pair of red eyes staring at him as he tosses in his sleep. It is Kee-zeg-be-set. A drunken Indian beholds in his frenzy some weird shape, and cries out, ‘See Kee-zeg-be-set!’ The Indian mothers believe that this direful hobgoblin tries to entrap their children. As more civilized parents warn their children that if they disobey and go to some forbidden place ‘the booggers will get you,’ so the Indian mothers frighten their little ones with the name of ‘Kee-zeg-be-set.’ They drive him away with the sign of the cross. He is only one of the supernatural beings which they suppose to be hovering around them, intent on evil. ‘Aboo-dom-k’n’ is an evil sprite that is believed to live in the water, to cast evil spells upon Indians who may stroll along the shore, or even to seize or devour children who may be playing in the water. Aboo-dom-k’n is supposed to have a fish’s body and tail, with a woman’s head and hair,